

Name _____

Experimental Film 323-1

Final Exam

Part One. (total: 45 min.) (10 points)

You will see Martin Arnold's *Alone. Life Wastes Andy Hardy*. Write an essay discussing the aesthetics of the film, with reference to issues of structural and minimal film and found footage. Include a discussion of how the technical manipulation of the material produces meaning.

Part Two. (10 points)

For each of the following: give the author, title, and explain the significance of any underlined phrases and then relate this excerpt to the author's major ideas and the course as a whole.

A.

The personal stance was as much material as ideological. Portable 16mm cameras with variable lenses and shooting speeds could be found on the war surplus and amateur film markets. Most major cities had laboratories and sources of film stock. Cheap and flexible technology literally put the means of production in the film-maker's hands. As 16 mm became the regular projection format in colleges, cine-clubs and arts groups, new circuits opened for the avant-garde. Like the live poetry readings which grew in this decade, film-makers often presented and discussed the films in person. At a time when auteur theory was controversially being applied to the mainstream, the avant-garde here underlined personal and direct authorship, and audience response, to challenge the regime of commercial cinema, from production to reception.

B.

Gehr himself has written: "A shot has to do with a variable intensity of light, and internal balance of time dependent upon an intermittent movement and a movement within a given space dependent upon persistence of vision...[Film] does not reflect on life, it embodies the life of the mind. It is not a vehicle for ideas or portrayals of emotion outside of its own existence as emoted idea."

C.

Moreover, the subject of the film becomes more and more motivated as the hemispherical imagery makes visual relationships between the ball, water in the birdbath, the girl's hand, a scale model of the brain, a half of a wagon wheel, a covered wagon, and a semi-circular tunnel. ...By substituting one image for another--e.g., the model of the brain for the covered wagon--Brakhage links their meanings and implication. The girl's seizure is made part of the social organism through visual rhyme.

Part Three (bluebook) (10 points)

You will see two short films. For each film, discuss the film in relation to the other work of the maker, and the course as a whole.

Part Four: Short Answers (5 points)

1. An auto-biographical diary film by Scott Bartlett that contains a birth scene:

_____1970_____

2. George Kuchar's Hold Me While I'm Naked contains sequences which directly parody scenes from a previous avant-garde film seen in class. Name the filmmaker and title:

Mass Image in the Snow

3. Shot in Chicago, this film by Edward Bland is an expository film on the African-American experience: _____cry of jazz_____.

4. Identify by title and maker three films seen in class which fit into the trend of social/political dissent in avant garde film, and why they fit.

5: List the 5 characteristics of structural film identified by Sitney:

shape primary, predeertmined, minimal content

fixed camera
flicker effect
loop printing
rephotography